

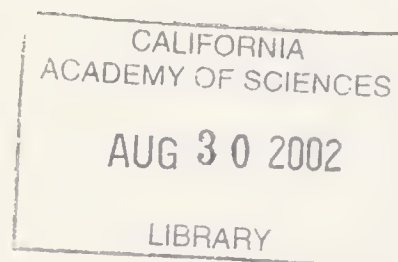
# THE GULL



GOLDEN GATE AUDUBON SOCIETY NEWSLETTER VOL. 87 NO. 7 SEPTEMBER 2002

FOUNDED 1917

## A Win for the Harriers



**T**he threat—to mow several wide swaths of land in the Berkeley Meadows, an important wild area in the new Eastshore State Park. The mowing was to be done by the East Bay Regional Park District before the 4th of July to mitigate fire dangers.

The problem—a pair of Northern Harriers, a State Species of Special Concern, nest in the Meadows, and the timing endangered their nestlings.


To the rescue—GGAS members Corinne Greenberg and Kristin Ohlson. With relentless determination, Corinne and Kristin successfully embarked on a campaign to protect the harriers, leading the charge to lobby the responsible parties, writing letter after letter and attending meeting after meeting.

Of course, Corinne and Kristin could not have achieved this result by themselves. Both the Golden Gate Audubon Society's Arthur Feinstein and the Sierra Club's Norman LaForce weighed in heavily for the harriers, as did Russ Wilson and Peter Rauch, members of both organizations. And, this result would not have been possible without our public officials' desire to do the right thing. When Arthur learned that Corinne and Kristin's concerns were not being addressed he called Berkeley Mayor Shirley Dean's office and asked her to

help resolve the issue. Particular thanks go to Mayor Dean, who then called a key meeting for all involved to discuss the problem and commit to a satisfactory resolution. We also gratefully acknowledge the hard work East Bay Regional Park District Deputy Director Jerry Kent who worked tirelessly with Corinne and Kristin to reach the mutually acceptable final solution.

The end result—the mowing was restricted to two criss-cross paths under the supervision of East Bay Regional Park biologist and raptor expert Joe DiDonato, with a portion delayed until August. And, additional security measures were provided during the 4th of July celebrations.

The reduced and later mowing not only benefited the harriers, which fledged two young this year, but will also benefit other birds that nest in the Meadows, including Song Sparrows and Savannah Sparrows, the later being uncommon nesters in the East Bay.

The battles to conserve wildlife and their habitats seem endless. More needs to be done to protect, preserve and enhance the Meadows, as well as other wild areas of the East Shore State Park at risk, such as the Albany Plateau and the North Basin. But with people like Mayor Dean, Jerry Kent, Corinne, Kristin, Russ, Norman and Arthur, many battles are won, as was this one. To all of you, the harriers thank you, the sparrows thank you, and we, the people, thank you. 



Juvenile female Northern Harrier, photographed at the Marin Headlands/Golden Gate Raptor Observatory (GGRO).

Siobhan Ruck



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**Publicity:** Marjorie Blackwell\*

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## OTHER

### Observations

Jay Withgott

415.452.6763 withgott@pacbell.net

### GGAS Webmaster

Tomas Latham

Northern California Bird Box

415.681.7422 tlatham@davidbowie.com

## EDITOR

Eva Guralnick

415.387.8731 eva@egcommunications.com

## COPY EDITOR

Ann Howard

## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Arthur Feinstein 510.843.6551

Published each month except June, July and August by the Golden Gate Audubon Society. Special third-class postage paid in Oakland, CA

Send address changes to office promptly. Post Office does not forward *The Gull*. Monthly meeting: second Friday West Bay; third Thursday East Bay. 7:00 p.m. Golden Gate Audubon Society membership \$20 per year. Renewals should be sent to Golden Gate Audubon office. Single issues of *The Gull* \$2.00.

The Golden Gate Audubon Society, Inc. was established January 15, 1917, and became a chapter of National Audubon in 1948. *The Gull* deadline is the first of the month for the following month's issue.

*The Gull* - ISSN 0164-971X

Golden Gate Audubon Society  
 2530 San Pablo Avenue, Suite G  
 Berkeley, CA 94702

Phone: 510.843.2222 • Fax: 510.843.5351

www.goldengateaudubon.org  
 ggass@compuserve.com

Office Hours: Tuesday - Friday 9-12, 1-4 (please call first)

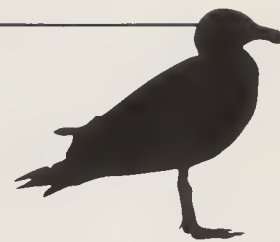
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# FIELD TRIPS

Susan Groves



## Strybing Arboretum, San Francisco

### Sunday, September 1, October 6

Meet at 8 a.m. at the front gate of the Arboretum (9th Ave. and Lincoln Way) for this regular first Sunday of the month half-day trip. The Strybing Arboretum is a delightful section of Golden Gate Park, with several "micro-habitats" attracting a varied array of resident, migrant and vagrant birds. Beginners and all others welcome. GGAS co-leaders: Allan Ridley, Heather Chase, Rick Ferrick; Strybing Arboretum Docents: Helen McKenna, Linda Lyons. 415.566.3241.

## Tilden Regional Park, Berkeley

### Sunday, September 1

Meet at 8 a.m. at the Nature Center parking lot for this half-day trip. We will explore Jewel Lake and other areas. We hope to see migrant warblers, vireos, flycatchers and resident birds. Beginners welcome. Enter the park from either Canyon Dr. (where Spruce meets Wildcat Canyon Rd.) or Shasta Rd., off Grizzly Peak Blvd. Leader: Rusty Scalf, 510.666.993. Rscalf@jps.net.

## Hayward Shoreline

### Sunday, September 8

Meet at 9 a.m. at the Hayward Shoreline Interpretive Center, 4901 Breakwater Ave., for this half-day trip. This is one of the best times and places to study shorebirds. We should see some first fall birds in their once-in-a-lifetime bright juvenal plumage, as well as adults still in breeding plumage or

various stages of molt. Beginners welcome. Directions: from Oakland, take I-880 south to Hwy. 92 (Hayward/San Mateo Bridge exit). Go west towards San Mateo. Exit Hwy. 92 at Clawiter, cross Clawiter onto Breakwater Ct., and turn left onto Breakwater Ave. The Interpretive Center (opens at 10 a.m., no other facilities) is at the end of the road. Leader: Lewis Cooper, 510.526.1773.

## Coastal San Francisco

### Saturday, September 14

Meet at 8 a.m. in the parking lot between South and Middle Lakes (Chain of Lakes) near the 41st Ave. and Lincoln Way entrance to Golden Gate Park. We will bird in the park, at Lake Merced, and in Golden Gate National Recreation Area in search of warblers, flycatchers and vagrants. Bring lunch and be prepared for cold weather near the coast. Beginners welcome. Leader: Dan Murphy, 415.564.0074.

## Pelagic Seabirding Trip, Monterey Bay

### Saturday, September 14

This is the optimum time of year for pelagic birding in Monterey Bay. The numbers and variety of seabirds are at a peak and rarities are a distinct possibility. Trip runs from 7:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Four experienced leaders aboard. \$65 per person with a percentage going to the American Bird Conservancy's Albatross Action Campaign. To register, call 831.375.4658; further information can be found at [www.montereybaywhalewatch.com](http://www.montereybaywhalewatch.com). Additional trips October 13, 2002.



## **Biking and Birding, Bollinas Lagoon, Marin**

**Saturday, September 14**

Meet at 9:45 a.m. in front of the Sand Dollar restaurant in Stinson Beach on Hwy 1. Helmets required. We'll look for early waterfowl returnees, some in summer plumage, and then bike to the pond at Five Brooks for lunch and more birding. About 20 miles round trip; steep hill in each direction. Call Jeffrey Black, 510.526.7068, for details and carpooling assistance. Allow 75 minutes from Berkeley to Stinson Beach.

## **Aquatic Park, San Francisco**

**Saturday, September 14**

Meet at 9:30 a.m. at the foot of the Hyde Street Pier (Hyde & Jefferson) for this beginners bird walk. Discover birds next door to the urban environment. San Francisco Maritime National Historical Park Ranger Carol Kiser will lead this approximately two-hour walk. Dress in layers. Wheelchair accessible. 415.561.7100 or 561.7104.

## **Las Gallinas Sewer Ponds, Marin**

**Sunday, September 15**

Meet at 8 a.m. at the parking lot for this half-day trip. We'll see a variety of water birds, raptors and more in migration. Beginners welcome. Take 101 north and exit at the Lucas Valley Drive off-ramp. Go east on Smith Ranch Rd. to the end. Take a sharp left to the sewage treatment ponds, just before the county park. Drive past the headquarters to the parking lot on the left. Leader: Bob Lewis, 510.845.5001. Rlewis0727@aol.com.

## **San Bruno Mountain, South San Francisco**

**Saturday, September 21**

Meet at 9 a.m. at the headquarters park-

ing lot on Guadalupe Canyon Pkwy. on this half-day trip, which is a joint activity with the Friends of San Bruno Mountain. Expect to see migrating and resident birds. Leaders: Herb Brandt, 415.239.2711, and Doug Allshouse. \$ to park in parking lot if gate is open.

## **Bay Trail, San Leandro-Hayward**

**Sunday, September 22**

Bicycle and bird the Bay Trail from the San Leandro Marina to Hayward Shoreline Regional Park. Meet at 8:45 a.m. at San Leandro Marina Park. This is a non-strenuous 14-mile round trip along a good bicycle path adjacent to San Francisco Bay. Trip will end by 2 p.m. Shorebirds, raptors and more. Bicycle helmet required. Wear layers; bring lunch/liquids. From 880 in San Leandro, take Marina Blvd. exit west, turn left onto Monarch Bay Dr., follow road to end where we meet in the parking lot. Leader: Kathy Jarrett, 510.547.1233, kathy\_jarrett@yahoo.com.

## **Arrowhead Marsh, Alameda County**

**Sunday, September 22**

Meet at 9:30 a.m. for a 3-hour stroll. We should see lots of shorebirds. Bring a scope if you have one. All levels welcome. Take I-880 south to Hegenberger and then west on Hegenberger to Doolittle Dr. Right on Doolittle, right onto Swan Wy. Left into park. Drive to end of newly paved road and the Arrowhead Marsh parking lot. Leader: Courtenay Peddle, 510.532.8911 (not after 9 p.m.) capeddle@there.net.

## **Southeast San Francisco**

**Saturday, September 28**

Meet in Candlestick Point State Recreation Area parking lot at 8 a.m. From Candlestick Point we will carpool to

Bay View Park to look for land birds and then Heron's Head Park to look for shorebirds and early waterfowl. Bring a lunch/liquids. Leader: Alan Hopkins, 415.664.0983.


## **Hayward Shoreline**

**Sunday, September 29**

For this half-day trip focusing on shorebirds, meet at 9 a.m. at the West Winton entrance to Hayward Shoreline. Take Hwy. 80 south to Winton Ave. exit. Take Winton west towards the Bay; drive to the parking lot at the end of West Winton. Leaders: Lillian Fujii and Steve Hayashi, 510.236.4167 steveandlil@worldnet.att.net.

## **Hawk Hill, Marin County**

**Saturday, October 5**

Meet at 10 a.m. at the middle platform of Hawk Hill (Battery 129). Hawk Hill, in the Golden Gate National Recreation Area, is the premier hawk watch location in the West. Each fall, about 20,000 hawks fly over Hawk Hill. From Marin County, take the last exit before Golden Gate bridge. Turn left at stop sign, then right into the GGNRA, on Conzelman Rd. Drive to top of hill and park. Walk up to Hawk Hill via the gated fire road. From San Francisco, take the first exit after the bridge (Alexander). Turn left, drive under the freeway. Turn left and then right into the GGNRA. You will be on Conzelman Rd. Bring lunch/liquids, sunscreen, hat, layered clothing. Trip will end around 2 p.m. Parking limited; come early/ carpool if possible. Golden Gate Raptor Observatory Day Leader: Stefanie Arthuir, 415.587.9282. 

*Trips marked with [S] go to parks or other sites which require an entrance fee. Carpooling arrangements will be attempted by leader for trips marked with a [\*].*

# Introduction to Birdwatching in the East Bay



GAS is offering a five-week birding class especially for East Bay members that is tailored for new and novice birders. The class will emphasize identification of common East Bay birds, building birding skills, and the pure joy of watching birds. We will also briefly cover related subjects such as natural history and conservation of East Bay birds, birding optics, reference materials and ethics.

Classroom instruction will be on Wednesday evenings from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. at the new GGAS office, 2530 San Pablo Avenue, Suite G. Morning field trips will take place the following Saturdays at various East Bay locations, including Arrowhead Marsh, Berkeley Meadows and Marina, and Tilden Regional Park. Classroom instruction starts on Wednesday, October 9; the first field trip will be on Saturday, October 12. The classes will run consecutively (five classes and five field trips). The class will be limited to 15 students to allow for optimum personal attention in the field. The cost is \$60.00 for both classes and field trips; no refund for missed classes or field trips. Recommended text is *Birds of North America* by Kenn Kaufman, which will be available at the GGAS office at a 20 percent discount (obtainable either at class time or during the office's weekly hours. This discount is available only to those taking the class).

The classroom instructor will be


GGAS member Lillian Fujii. Field trips will be co-led by Lillian Fujii and Steve Hayashi. Lillian was the Golden Gate Audubon Society's Field Trips Chairperson for several years. Lillian and Steve have been birding the East Bay for over 10 years, and currently lead field trips for Golden Gate Audubon. To register, send a check in the amount of \$60.00 made payable to Golden Gate Audubon Society, to the GGAS Office:

Golden Gate Audubon Society  
2530 San Pablo Avenue, Suite G  
Berkeley, CA 94702.

We can also enroll you through VISA or MasterCard if you call the GGAS office during our business hours, Tuesday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Our number is 510.843.2222.

Unless the information is on your check, please also provide your phone number and e-mail address.

West Bay members are welcome, of course, but for obvious reasons, the class is much more convenient for East Bay residents. The class is limited to GGAS members.

Questions about the class? Call Lillian at 510.236.4167. 


## Friends of the Alameda Wildlife Refuge Present Family Spirit Day

**When: September 14, 2002 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.**

**Where: The proposed Alameda Wildlife Refuge**

We welcome all ages to work, play and observe nature. This will be a day to bring families, community and nature together. The work goal will be habitat restoration by removing ice plant—a favorite activity for many children, we've learned through experience. We will have games and activities from the Ohlone culture presented by the Native American Council of FAWR. We'll enjoy a roaring good time in this Bay Area open space where the sky stretches forever in all directions. Join us for wind in the face, sunshine (we hope), work and play. Bring a picnic. We will provide beverages and snacks.

Registration is necessary. You will receive a map and additional details on this event.

Please call GGAS at 510.843.2222 or e-mail [ggas@goldengateaudubon.org](mailto:ggas@goldengateaudubon.org) with the following information: names of attendees, ages of children, day and/or evening phone, address, and e-mail contact. 



# Fall Birding Classes in San Francisco

E

vening bird classes taught by Joc Morlan and endorsed by Golden Gate Audubon Society

will be starting September 4, 5 and 10, 2002. All classes meet 7 to 9:15 p.m. in room 221, Marina Middle School, 3500 Fillmore at Bay Street, San Francisco. Free parking is in the school lot off Bay Street on the east side of the building.

The instructor is co-author of *Birds of San Francisco and the Bay Area* and *Birds of Northern California*. He is also coordinator of the recorded Northern California Birdbox sponsored by Golden Gate Audubon Society. Slides illustrate all lectures, and the text for all classes is *A Field Guide to Birds of North America*, third edition, by the National Geographic Society. *The Sibley Guide to Birds* is recommended as an adjunct text for Ornithology II & III.

Field Ornithology I meets on Tuesdays. It is an introduction to birds and birding, combining basic field skills with the study of bird ecology, biology, evolution and behavior. Part A (EA101) starts September 10 and ends October 22; Part B (EA105) is a continuation of Part A. It begins October 29 and ends December 10.

Field Ornithology II meets on Wednesdays. It is a continuing in-depth study of the identification and status of North American land birds, including nightjars, swifts, humming-


birds and woodpeckers. Part A (EA110) starts September 4 and ends October 16; Part B (EA115) starts October 23 and ends December 11.



Ringed Teal, Strybing Arboretum, Golden Gate Park.


Field Ornithology III meets on Thursdays. It is a continuing study of North American water birds including waterfowl. Part A (EA120) starts September 5 and ends October 24; Part B (EA125) starts October 31 and ends December 12.

The instructor may arrange optional field trips on weekends. Please bring binoculars and field guides to class if you have them. Fees are \$115 for each seven-week course (\$100 for EA120 & EA125 which are six weeks). Pre-registration is strongly advised. For further information call 415.561.1860.

For additional information see the instructor's Web site at <http://fog.ccsf.cc.ca.us/~jmorlan/>. 

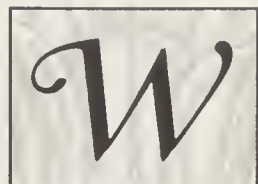
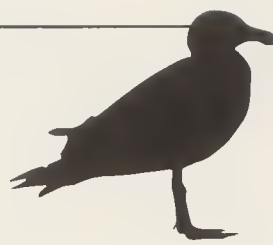
## Birding Field Trips with Alice Hoch

Alice Hoch will resume her six-week Tuesday morning Birding Field Trips class on September 10th. For those of you who are unfamiliar with Alice's class, you'll find it's different because it consists of tutoring during actual birding rather than a classroom lecture format. The class will bird a different site each Tuesday from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Alice has been teaching Birding Field Trips for over 27 years and is an active member of Ohlone Audubon Society. Her classes are filled with friendly, helpful people at all levels from absolute beginner to very experienced. Be prepared to birdwatch at the first class meeting. Ask where we will start that first day, as Noll School may be unavailable.

Register by Thursday, September 5th by calling the Fremont Adult School at 510.791.5841. Register early as the class is limited to 15 students. The last class will be on October 15th. If you have questions about registration, call the Fremont Adult School. 

# PROGRAMS

Anne McTavish




We are happy to present for the first time a year-long calendar of our

wonderful monthly programs. Please consider tearing out the calendar and saving it so you won't miss anything.

Once again we will have regular monthly meetings in both San Francisco and Berkeley. However, the San Francisco location now will be the County Fair building at the Strybing Arboretum, Golden Gate Park. We were sorry to move from the Randall Museum after their many years of hospitality, but we wanted to change the meeting day to the second Friday of the month, which meant moving locations as well. Please join me in thanking the Randall Museum and staff for everything they did for GGAS. If you're not familiar with the Randall, I strongly urge you to visit this local treasure.

In general, the San Francisco meetings will be the second Friday of the month, at the County Fair building at the Strybing Arboretum in Golden Gate Park, 9th Avenue at Lincoln Way, San Francisco.

The Berkeley meetings will be the third Thursday of the month, still at the Northbrae Community Church, 941 The Alameda, Berkeley, CA 94707 (between Solano and Marin). There are exceptions in October and December, so check dates and locations carefully.

We meet socially at 7 p.m. and you are welcome to arrive early. The program begins at 7:30 p.m. More information about the topics will follow in future issues of the Gull. 

## Golden Gate Audubon Society 2002–2003 Program Calendar

**September 13**, Strybing Arboretum, Allan Ridley: "Anatomy of Flight"

**September 19**, Northbrae Community Church, Dan Cooper: "Important Bird Areas Program"

**October 11**, Strybing Arboretum, TBA

**October 24**, Northbrae Community Church, Jim Shea, "Swainson's Hawks and Other Critters of Butte Valley" plus "GGRO Radio Telemetry Program"

**November 8**, Strybing Arboretum, Alan Hopkins: "Significant Natural Resource Areas"

**November 21**, Northbrae Community Church, TBA

**December TBA**, Oakland Christmas Bird Count

**December 27**, San Francisco Christmas Bird Count, number 20!

**January 10**, Strybing Arboretum, Stephen Shunk: "Wonders of Northern Alberta Odyssey: Bird Life of the Boreal Forest"

**January 16**, Northbrae Community Church, Stephen Shunk: "Magic of Malheur: Oasis in the Great Basin Desert"

**February 14**, Strybing Arboretum, TBA

**February 20**, Northbrae Community Church, Joelle Buffa: "Seabirds and Seasons of the Farallon National Wildlife Refuge"

**March 14**, Strybing Arboretum, Joe Morlan: TBA

**March 20**, Northbrae Community Church, Jay Withgott: "Biodiversity and Conservation in Sonora, Mexico"

**April 11**, Strybing Arboretum, Alvaro Jaramillo: "Birds of Cuba"

**April 17**, Northbrae Community Church, Daniel Edelstein: "The Miracle of Migration: The Amazing Nomadic Lives of Birds & Other Animals"

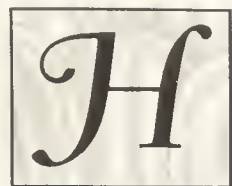
**May 9**, Strybing Arboretum, TBA

**May 15**, Northbrae Community Church, TBA



# Leadership Awards

by Dana Kokubun



undreds of volunteers contribute to the mission of GGAS every year, and the following leaders have made extraordinary contributions. We are proud to honor the 2002 Leadership Award recipients. Nominated by their peers and staff, the winners were announced at a board event on June 16<sup>th</sup> at the home of Miles McKey, GGAS President. Each recipient received a special birding book and the gratitude of the entire organization for their fine contributions to Audubon.

## **The Innovator – Tomas Latham, GGAS Webmaster**

This award goes to the volunteer who has implemented an innovation that improves GGAS' ability to carry out its mission.

"Tomas Latham is an innovator. His work on the Web page, his good ideas, his willingness to work with others, all done with little guidance and little feedback, make him a model volunteer."

—Anne McTavish

## **Unsung Hero – Tie: Kay Bloom and Ann Howard**

The Unsung Hero award goes to volunteer leaders who consistently carry out essential chapter functions over an extended period of time.

### **Kay Bloom**

"Kay has been a pillar of support and reliability for the wetlands education program. She has helped train volunteer docents for the program by doing

activity demonstrations in John Luther's classes, she has volunteered in the schools, served as a back-up for Tsahai in giving classroom slide talks, has volunteered regularly at the MLK shoreline program, and she has participated in many of the community programs at the marsh as well. She is a role model for docents as she is kind, generous, helpful, knowledgeable, good humored, and patient."

—Audre Newman

"Kay Bloom has been a consistent volunteer environmental educator in both the classes and field. Whenever there is an unexpected need, Kay has stepped in to fill the job. She is beloved by staff, the children and the high school mentors."

—Amiko Mayeno

### **Ann Howard**

"Ann Howard has served as:

- Treasurer until Dave Shunick took over last year
- Hospitality Chair for the Berkeley member meetings
- Audubon Adventures Coordinator with school teachers, and
- Audubon Canyon Ranch guide.

Ann could always be depended upon to do more than her share and to be helpful to me and others. Now that Ann has resigned from the Board, it is late—but not too late—to give her the credit she deserves for the sacrifices she has made with her time and her sense of responsibility to GGAS."

—Kathryn Blake

"Ann Howard worked tirelessly as hospitality chairperson. She has dragged

boxes of materials and food to every meeting and set it up for the enjoyment and enrichment of everyone. She will be sorely missed in this position."


—Carolyn Kolka

## **The New Stars – David Shunick, Mica Sanchez, Anne McTavish**

New Stars have made significant contributions in their first year of volunteer service.

David Shunick joined GGAS in response to an ad for a Finance Chair on the VolunteerMatch.org Web site. In his short time on the board, David has made tremendous contributions of time and talent to GGAS, revising the financial reports and processes, resulting in a more professional financial operation. He also initiated and facilitated the search for a larger and better office, which has improved efficiency.


Mica Sanchez, says education director Amiko Mayeno, "has been an outstanding new volunteer this year. He has taken time off during his full-time job to give presentations on local natural history at recreation centers and libraries in East Oakland. In addition, he has tutored the education staff on Web site management, and initiated a grant request from Wells Fargo Bank, where he works."

Anne McTavish doubled the size of the general meeting programs, after assuming the position of Program Chair. A board member, Anne is tireless in her search for new and interesting programs to present at the general meetings, held in Berkeley and San Francisco. 

# Irreplaceable Birding Trip Leaders Retire from Years of Service

by Susan Groves

**P**eter Allen, Anna ("Willie") Wilcox and Jean-Marie Spoelman have retired from leading GGAS birding trips after many years of service. Peter led trips to Yuba Pass, Bothe-Napa and Coyote Hills. Lillian Fujii notes that because of his "patience, calm demeanor and warmth," Peter was the perfect leader. Jean-Marie and Willie, known for their mid-week trips every month, have been leading GGAS trips for about 15 years. The poem at right describes the awe with which birders regarded this "dynamic duo."

All three of these indomitable leaders are admired and respected for their knowledge and skills. Field trips are one of the major activities of the GGAS and we appreciate these leaders who have devoted so much time and energy to make the trips they led significant learning and recreational events. Their contribution has been extraordinarily generous. We wish them many years of excellent birding experiences! 



Anna Wilcox (l) and Jean-Marie Spoelman

## Willie and Jean-Marie

(to the tune of "Charlie on the MTA")

by Steve Isaacs

June 13, 2001

Let me tell you the story of a man  
named Charlie.  
It was tragic as you shall see.  
He put a bird book in his pocket and he  
went on a bird walk  
Led by Willie and Jean-Marie.

*Refrain:*

*Did he ever return? No, he never  
returned,  
And his fate is still unlearned.  
He may roam forever in the woods and  
marshes,  
He's the birder who never returned.*

Now the rain poured down, and the  
wind blew ferocious,  
And the temperature was 33,  
But that didn't deter them, not  
those two leaders,  
Not Willie and Jean-Marie.

*Refrain*

First, Jean-Marie heard 1/10 of one  
second  
Of music from behind a tree.  
"Orange-crowned warbler" declared that  
leader,  
Though no one would ever see.

*Refrain*

Willie scanned the shoreline across 800  
yards of water  
Very carefully.  
"Clapper rail" shouted that leader  
Enthusiastically.

*Refrain*

Now Charlie didn't know a Bewick from  
a Buick.  
He thought "TV" meant the 5 o'clock  
news.  
He had a \$2 bird book, and \$10 optics.  
He looked in trees to find curlews.



*Refrain*

Charlie decided he would stay out  
birding  
Till he could name every bird he could see,  
Till he knew the birds as well as those  
leaders,  
Willie and Jean-Marie.

*Refrain*

If you go out birding and you encounter  
a stranger  
Looking in every tree,  
If his clothes are tattered and his face is  
sunburned,  
It's because of Willie and Jean-Marie.

*Refrain*



# East Bay Conservation News: Saving the Last Wild Canyon

by Jacqui Smalley

**I**n August of 2000, when I first walked the Last Wild Canyon, adjacent to Joaquin Miller Park, I was amazed at the fabulous wild beauty of this half-mile watershed valley with its abundance of wildflowers, birds and oaks and a creek running through it.

I was walking with Amy Evans McClure, a member of a neighborhood alliance called Friends of the Last Wild Canyon, who had contacted GGAS and asked for our support in their efforts to preserve the canyon. After our walk, I invited the Friends to attend a GGAS Conservation Committee meeting where they presented their preservation ideas and screened a video of the canyon. Our committee unanimously agreed to lend our support to their efforts. Since then we have spent considerable time brainstorming and lending advisory support to the Friends as well as writing letters and calling city officials and other organizations.

The Last Wild Canyon and its watershed originate in Joaquin Miller Park where it abuts Joaquin Miller Road. As it passes the junction of Robinson Drive and Butters Drive, the canyon deepens and widens. The creek flowing through the canyon forms a tributary of Peralta Creek which is part of the Sausal Creek watershed. The canyon opens into preserved steep headlands on the property of Holy Names College. There the creek joins other tributaries and eventually drains

into San Leandro Bay.


When the neighborhood became aware that subdivision and development of several properties along the canyon were being planned, over 200 residents came together to preserve the canyon. The canyon and creek are a thriving example of what the Oakland Hills ecosystem must have looked like prior to development. There is surprisingly little infiltration by non-native species. There are groves of California live oaks, Bay laurels, and flowering wild Indian plums. Redwoods flourish alongside the streambed. Upper portions of the canyon, as well as the lower slopes, are filled with a profusion of wildflower meadows, native grasses, ferns and mosses. It is a refuge for a host of bird species including owls, raptors, woodpeckers, tanagers, orioles, finches, nuthatches, cedar waxwings, chickadees and juncos. There are several flocks of California quail, golden eagles, and a variety of butterflies, reptiles and amphibians. Foxes and coyotes have been sighted in the canyon. In the rainy season, numerous seeps and runoffs provide habitat for wildlife as well as the sound of rushing water for hikers, horseback riders and cyclists.

As the organization of Friends and their supporters grew, so did the development threat on many fronts. As the Friends searched for funding to buy threatened land, it became apparent that a legal entity in the neighborhood to hold title to the lands and to hold conservation easements

was essential. In June 2001 the Butters Land Trust was formed to carry out the neighborhood preservation plans. As of this date the trust holds three lots assessed at over \$1.25 million. Two more lots will be transferred to the trust in 2003.

Multiple canyon neighbors are investigating either conservation easements on their land or outright donations.

The Friends of the Last Wild Canyon and the Butters Land Trust have done and continue to do what many thought was impossible. They have saved pristine land in the Oakland Hills that is a haven to wildlife and native vegetation. They have protected a significant watershed from destruction, thereby avoiding further degradation of our Bay. A neighborhood of concerned and involved people really can make a difference!

GGAS is proud to have been a part of this project by providing advisory support and expertise. The Butters Land Trust has invited GGAS to continue its advisory role by serving on their Board of Directors. Working together, we are hopeful that ultimately all of this exquisitely beautiful canyon with its natural diversity will be preserved. If you would like to learn more about the trust, or take a guided tour of the canyon, contact the Butters Land Trust, through its Board President Priscilla Stuckey at [pstuckey@california.com](mailto:pstuckey@california.com), or GGAS Conservation Chairperson Jacqui Smalley at [smalleyj@pacbell.net](mailto:smalleyj@pacbell.net). 

# A New Golden Gate Audubon—National Audubon Relationship

by Arthur Feinstein



ou may not have realized it, but the Golden Gate Audubon Society (GGAS) and the National Audubon Society (NAS) are, and have always been, two separate corporate organizations.

We are just about the same age: GGAS was begun in 1917 and National Audubon a few years earlier. We did not become a chapter of the NAS until 1952. What did it mean to become a chapter? While our organizations remained independent, it meant that all NAS members in our local area automatically became GGAS members, and we were happy to serve them with our field trips, programs and conservation efforts. We also sent our newsletter, *The Gull*, to all of these new members.

Becoming an NAS chapter brought significant additional costs to GGAS. To help offset these additional costs, National Audubon agreed to give chapters a percentage of the membership fees it charged its members. This was called the dues share.

In other words, NAS and its Audubon Chapters had a beneficial arrangement in which the local chapters provided NAS members with local services (in conservation, field trips, education programs and their newsletters) while NAS provided a national conservation perspective, published *Audubon Magazine* and helped the local chapters through the dues share.

For many years, GGAS received \$5.50 from the \$20 NAS membership fee for each new and renewing NAS

member. As an NAS member's membership rate rose from \$20 to \$35 or more over several years, GGAS still received only the \$5.50. But that still helped offset the cost of publishing and mailing *The Gull* to all of our members.

Several years ago, however, NAS decided that it could not afford to give chapters the dues share they were traditionally receiving. After several years of deliberation and debate, and over most chapters' opposition, NAS reduced the chapters' dues share to about \$2.25 and may reduce it even further next year.

This has caused great financial stress to GGAS. It costs us about \$33,000 a year to publish *The Gull*. In years past, our NAS dues share was large enough so that we only had to raise a few thousand more dollars to get *The Gull* out. This year we will receive only about \$12,000 from NAS. This leaves GGAS with a \$21,000 deficit just for *The Gull*.

As a result of these events, we have had to revisit our concept of GGAS as a NAS chapter. While we remain pleased to be a National Audubon Chapter and greatly support their programs, we now need to generate GGAS-only members since NAS no longer sends us a meaningful part of your NAS membership dues. Thus we have instituted a new category of membership: Golden Gate Audubon Society member.

Through this policy change you may now become a GGAS member only. GGAS membership dues are \$20 per


year. Your GGAS membership will provide us with the support we need to keep all of our programs and *The Gull* alive and well. For your membership you will receive 10 issues of *The Gull*, a 10 percent discount at our Nature Store and free participation in all of our field trips and our monthly meeting nature programs. Your support will also help us sustain all of the good conservation, environmental education and birding programs that we provide every year.

Your GGAS membership will not make you a NAS member and you will not receive *Audubon Magazine* four times a year.

Next time you receive a renewal application from NAS you will therefore have a choice. You can renew with NAS but recognize that essentially none of your membership renewal dues will help GGAS and your local community or you can forego renewing with NAS but, instead, join GGAS. You can join GGAS at any time.

If you decide to renew as a NAS member you will still receive *The Gull* and the GGAS benefits listed above (except the store discount), but you should remember that your NAS membership dues provide essentially no financial assistance to Golden Gate Audubon.

Another option is to join both NAS and GGAS individually and know that your dual contributions are helping Audubon do its work both locally and nationally.

Whatever you choose, we ask you to consider giving a separate, tax-deductible donation to Golden Gate Audubon in support of our many conservation, education and recreational programs that help preserve the irreplaceable natural resources of the Bay Area. 




## There's Another Way You Can Help GGAS

As you have read on page 10, the National Audubon Society is essentially no longer helping us financially with the cost of publishing *The Gull*.

This is a financial problem we have to solve, and you can help! You can receive *The Gull* through our Web page and save us the mailing and printing costs. Just visit our Web page at [www.goldengateaudubon.org](http://www.goldengateaudubon.org).

Once there you simply look for the *Gull* logo, click on it and you will get a page giving you a choice of *Gull* issues to read. When viewed this way you will get all of the pictorial content and can print it out on your own printer. No longer will you have to worry about losing your *Gull* and missing field trips or programs.

You will need the Adobe Acrobat Reader software program to read *The Gull*. This is a free program and at the bottom of *The Gull* Web page there is a direct link to Adobe Acrobat from which you can download the program. Once you have done this, *The Gull* is easy to get from our Web page.

If you decide to get *The Gull* in this manner, please call our office at 510.843.2222 or email us at [ggas@goldengateaudubon.org](mailto:ggas@goldengateaudubon.org) and we will stop sending you *The Gull* by mail. If enough of you decide to do this it will mean significant savings for GGAS. 

## GOLDEN GATE AUDUBON SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

To become a GGAS member, please use the form below or call our office at 510.843.2222.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

A contribution to Golden Gate Audubon in addition to your membership will provide significant support to our conservation, education and recreation programs.

Membership (\$20) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Yes, I also want to donate \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Total Amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_

*Please make your check payable to Golden Gate Audubon Society and mail with this form to:*

Golden Gate Audubon Society

2530 San Pablo Avenue, Suite G, Berkeley, CA 94702

Or join by using your credit card:

☐ VISA ☐ MasterCard


Credit card # \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

Credit Card Expiration Date \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_

☐ Please do not give my name to any other organization.

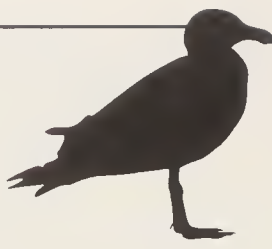
## HELP WANTED

GGAS is seeking a qualified volunteer to chair a new Development Committee that will focus on—guess what? Fundraising. GGAS has grown. Our environmental education programs are reaching new and diverse communities. And as the Bay Area population grows, our conservation issues have become ever more critical. To continue to be one of the Bay Area's most effective conservation organizations, we must ensure our financial resources are strong enough to support these essential activities. The Development Committee chair will serve on the GGAS board and have the assistance, creative ideas and support of all board members and staff. Compensation: high degree of personal satisfaction and gratitude of the entire chapter.

Call GGAS Director Arthur Feinstein at 510.843.2222 or e-mail: [afeinstein@goldengateaudubon.org](mailto:afeinstein@goldengateaudubon.org) for more information. 

# OBSERVATIONS

May 1 - July 31, 2002  
Jay Withgott



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This month, the *Observations* column undergoes a change in scope. Rather than attempt to cover reports from across the northern two-thirds of California, the column will now focus on birds in the San Francisco Bay area, where the great majority of GGAS members reside. The column will summarize sightings from the nine counties ringing the Bay, and include from outside this region only the most unusual records.

This reduction in scope has been made in view of the greatly increased volume of reports, due to higher numbers of birders and the explosion in reporting on online lists. It was made after extensive consultation with top area birders and GGAS officers. It's our hope that the new column's more-localized focus will make it of even greater interest and relevance to its readership. Let us know what you think!

If you miss the wider coverage, I urge you to subscribe to *North American Birds*, the official journal of record covering avian sightings across North America, region by region. In addition, numerous online mailing lists now thoroughly cover our state; for information on these, see the Web page: <http://fog.ccsf.cc.ca.us/~jmorlan/emailmap.htm>.

And now, on to the birds! There's plenty to cover since the last *Gull*, from the latter portion of spring migration to the start of fall migration.

## Loons to Ducks

Black-footed Albatrosses numbered 240 from a Cordell Bank, MRN, pelagic trip Jul. 21 (RS), while 80 were seen within a mile of land from Ft. Bragg, MEN, Jul. 25 (DT). The period saw three Manx

Shearwater (*Puffinus puffinus*) reports. On May 9, an individual was spotted off Bolsa Pt, SM (RSTh), and 3 days later 1 was seen off nearby Pigeon Pt (DH, AE). On Jun. 2 one was spied from a boat beyond the harbor at Ft. Bragg, MEN (DT). One hypothesis for increased recent sightings is that small numbers of this Atlantic Ocean species slipped around the tip of South America during the most recent El Niño, and are now at large in the Pacific. High counts of other tubenoses included 92 Buller's Shearwaters and 1 Black-vented Shearwater from the SM coast Jul. 27 (RSTh, PJM); and 2,000 Ashy Storm-Petrels from a Jul. 21 trip to Cordell Bank, MRN (RS). On Jun. 28 a spectacular congregation of 75,000-100,000 Sooty Shearwaters was witnessed off Seacliff SB, SCZ (DS).

A Least Bittern was at Olema Marsh, PRNS, Jun. 4 (ES). At CPCP, SM, an adult Yellow-crowned Night-Heron (*Nyctanassa violacea*) thrilled many observers, Jul. 23-24 (RSTh; mob). This striking crab-eating heron has been recorded from northern California only twice before.

Tundra Swans dallied at Shollenberger Park, Petaluma, SON, until at least May 24 (mob), while a Snow and a Ross's Goose remained at San Lorenzo Park, Hayward, ALA, through at least May 28 (BRi). Coastal Blue-winged Teal reports numbered 11. A Nene present May 3-22 near Jenner, SON (DVP, MB; oob), was apparently an escapee from a nearby farm (RS).

## Raptors to Alcids

A spring Solitary Sandpiper appeared at Pescadero Marsh, SM, May 4, and a fall one was found by the same observer at Redwood Shores, SM, Jul. 28 (RSTh). Good autumn migrant shorebirds began appearing at this time, with 3 juvenile

Semipalmated Sandpipers at CCFS, SCL, Jul. 28-31 (MM; oob); an adult Baird's Sandpiper at Abbott's Lagoon, MRN, Jul. 27 (ND); a juvenile Baird's at Crissy Field, SF, Jul. 28-31 (DC; mob); and a Ruff at CCFS, SCL, Jul. 30-31 (PK; oob). At CCFS in the spring was an injured Stilt Sandpiper May 10-12 (BR, FV; oob). Seawatches from Bolsa and Pigeon Pts, SM, May 11 and 17, counted 19,600 and 14,500 Red-necked Phalaropes migrating by (RSTh).

The Jul. 21 Cordell Bank pelagic trip tallied 14 Long-tailed Jaegers (RS). A Laughing Gull provided Mono Co. with its first record of this eastern species; on Jul. 4 an adult was found at Mono L. (JWr, NWr; EP); it was seen again approx. Jun. 14. Franklin's Gulls numbered 8 in SM, 2 in MRN, and 2 in SON (RSTh, mob). A Sabine's Gull wandered to shore at Bolinas Lagoon, MRN, May 16, in the company of 2 Franklin's (DC), while 16 Sabine's were reported from the Jul. 21 Cordell Bank pelagic (RS).

A new Caspian Tern breeding site in the Bay was discovered near Agua Vista Park, SF, numbering at least 133 adults (DSi; oob). Three Common Terns buzzed by Bolsa Pt, SM, May 4; 1 dropped in at Alviso, SCL, May 10 (BR, FV); and 1 landed on mudflats at CPCP, SM, Jul. 15 (RSTh). An Arctic Tern was lost far inland at Crowley L., MON, Jul. 7 (JS). Least Terns seemed numerous throughout the Bay area this summer, and nesting at Alameda produced 434 chicks (RHu). Black Terns were at Hayward Shoreline, ALA, May 8 (PD) and at Charleston Slough, SCL, Jun. 7 (JF).

A boat full of birders viewed 4 Thick-billed Murres (*Uria lomvia*) 10-15 mi. offshore from Eureka, HUM, May 12 (TM, mob). Two Craveri's Murrelets were identified at sea on the Jul. 21 Cordell Bank trip, MRN (RS), and 1 late-migrating Ancient Murrelet from shore May 17 at Pigeon Pt, SM (RSTh). A total of 1,750 Cassin's Auklets was tallied on the Cordell Bank trip, the highlight of which was 1 Horned Puffin (RS).



## Doves to Thrashers

A Barred Owl moved into redwood groves used by Spotted Owls at Muir Woods, MRN—a dire sign, for Barred Owls, which are expanding westward, are thought to compete with Spotted. First noted Apr. 29, the Muir Woods Barred Owl remained through at least May 27 and was witnessed harassing Spotted Owls, which nonetheless nested successfully there this year (DM, SM, MMo).

Black Swifts were spied flying over Rancho San Antonio CP, SCL, May 1 (JLi); Loma Prieta, SCL, May 25-30 (MM; oob); Mt. Davidson, SF, Jun. 4-11 (PS; DA, ND); and Ano Nuevo SR, Jun. 21-Jul. 21 (mob), where they appear not to be nesting this year. In SCZ Co., a season-long survey failed to turn up evidence of nesting (DS). The hybrid Nuttall's x Downy Woodpecker (mated to a female Nuttall's) at Sonoma State Univ., SON, was viewed feeding young May 15 (CC, LH).

Four Willow Flycatchers were reported this spring in CC, SCL, and SF, while a Willow on Jul. 25 at CPCP, SM, was an early fall migrant (RSTh), and a Dusky Flycatcher reported May 26 from the Presidio, SF, a late spring one (MZ). A Dusky was also at Morgan Territory RP, CC, May 9 (SG). An Eastern Phoebe showed up in the town of Bolinas, MRN, May 17 (KH, SH) and remained singing there until at least the 21<sup>st</sup>. But 1 at Crissy Field, SF, Jun. 15, was a one-morning wonder (HC). A Cassin's Kingbird passed through CPCP, SM, May 8, and an Eastern Kingbird appeared there 14 days later (RSTh). Another Eastern Kingbird was found Jul. 21 at PRNS (JH). At Ano Nuevo SR, SM, an adult Scissor-tailed Flycatcher was discovered by docents Jul. 12 (AM, JM). It provided numerous observers with views of its snazzy (though somewhat ragged) tail through the 27th.

Two Yellow-billed Magpies wandered the Hunter's Pt area, SF, in May-Jun. (mob). A Ruby-crowned Kinglet passed through late in the days preceding Jun. 7 on the Farallon Is. (PP). And a Townsend's Solitaire was a surprise in Sibley RP, Oak-

## Wood Warbler Sightings

### Tennessee Warbler

Jun. 1 Pescadero Cr, SM RSTh

### Northern Parula

Jun. 5 East Wash, SF HC  
Jun. 7 Belmont Cyn RSTh  
City Park, SM  
Jun. 19 PRNS, MRN RS  
(pair)

### Chestnut-sided Warbler

May 22 Inverness, MRN RS  
Jun. 12 Pescadero Cr, SM GH

### Magnolia Warbler

days preceding  
Jun. 29 Farallon Is., SF PP

### Palm Warbler

Jun. 6 Tilden Park, ALA TF, GC

### Bay-breasted Warbler

Jun. 3 Secret Cr & RS  
Hwy 395, LAS

### Blackpoll Warbler

days preceding  
Jun. 29 Farallon Is., SF PP

### Black-and-white Warbler

May 12 San Pedro Cr, SM BNe, DSi  
Jun. 13 East Wash, SF HC

days preceding  
Jun. 29 Farallon Is., SF PP

### American Redstart

b/w May 29 Farallon Is., SF PP  
& Jun. 7 (2 birds)  
Jun. 5 Calera Cr, DSi  
Pacifica, SM  
Jun. 14-20, Pescadero Cr, SM RSTh  
Jul. 7 (pair)  
Jun. 15 Phipps Ranch, SM RSTh

### Prothonotary Warbler

Jun. 6 San Gregorio, SM JM, RF

### Ovenbird

May 29 Tunitas Cr, SM RSTh

b/w May 29 Farallon Is., SF PP  
& Jun. 7 (2 birds)  
Jun. 26 Bolinas, MRN KH  
(killed by cat)

days preceding  
Jun. 29 Farallon Is., SF PP

### Northern Waterthrush

Jun. 2 Arroyo Leon, SM RSTh

### Hooded Warbler

May 14 Fitzgerald Marine RSTh  
Res., SM  
May 27 Pescadero Cr., SM RSTh

### Abbreviations for Observers:

DA, David Armstrong; MB, Matt Brady; CC, Chris Corben; DC, Dan Cooper; GC, Graham Chisholm; HC, Hugh Cotter; JC, Josiah Clark; RC, Richard Carlson; ND, Nathan Dias; PD, Peter Dramer; AE, Al Eisner; CE, Chris Emmons; JF, Jamie Fenneman; RF, Robbie Fischer; TF, Ted Floyd; PG, Peter Gueno; SG, Steve Glover; DH, Donna Heim; DHe, David Herlocker; GH, Garth Harwood; JH, Jeff Hoppes; KH, Keith Hansen; LH, Lisa Hug; LHe, Luanna Helsman; RH, Roger Harshaw; RHu, Rachel Hurt; SH, Steve Howell; BK, Barbara Klatt; PK, Pat Kenny; JLi, Jim Liskovec; LL, Leslie Lieurance; AM, Arch Mott; DM, Dave McKenzie; JM, Jennifer Mott; MM, Michael Mammoser; MMo, Mia Monroe; PJM, Peter Metropulos; SM, Steve Meyer; TM, Tristan McKee; BN, Bill Noble; BNe, Bess Nerccio; EP, Ed Pandolfino; PP, Peter Pyle; BR, Bob Reiling; BRi, Bob Richmond; DS, David Suddjian; DSi, Dan Singer; ES, Emilie Strauss; JS, John Sterling; PS, Paul Saraceni; RS, Rich Stallcup; DT, Dorothy Tobkin; RSTh, Ronald S. Thorn; MU, Myra Ulvang; DVP, David Vander Pluym; FV, Frank Vanslager; JW, Jim Wright; NW, Natalie Wright; MZ, Matt Zlatunich.

### Abbreviations for Counties and Others:

ALA, Alameda; CC, Contra Costa; CCFS, Coyote Cr. Field Station; Co., County; CP, County Park; CPCP, Coyote Point County Park; Cr, Creek; Cyn, Canyon; HUM, Humboldt; L., Lake; LAS, Lassen; MEN, Mendocino; MON, Mono; MRN, Marin; n./s./e./w. = north/south/east/west; Pt, Point; PRNS, Pt. Reyes National Seashore; R., River; RP, Regional Park; SCL, Santa Clara; SCZ, Santa Cruz; SF, San Francisco; SM, San Mateo; SON, Sonoma; SP, State Park; SR, State Reserve; STA, Stanislaus.

Semicolons separate original observer(s) from subsequent observer(s). Abbreviation "mob" = many observers; "oob" = other observers. Information is compiled from BirdBox transcripts and regional lists; the author apologizes for any errors or omissions.

land, ALA, May 5 (DHe). A Gray Catbird was singing near Lundy L., MON, Jun. 23 (PJM). On Jun. 10, a Brown Thrasher was found at Five-Brooks Pond, MRN (RS). Phainopeplas showed up out of place in SF—1 in the Presidio May 16 (JC) and 1 at East Wash May 24 (HC).

## Wood Warblers to Finches

Thirteen eastern warbler species were reported (see Table), including 2 potentially mated pairs (of Parula and Redstart). A Parula nest in SCZ fledged Jul. 12 was

the first for that county (CE; DS). Twelve Yellow-breasted Chats were reported.

Two Summer Tanagers were spotted at PRNS May 28 (RH), and 1 along San Gregorio Cr, SM, Jun. 23 (RSTh). On May 13 a Clay-colored Sparrow passed through CPCP (RSTh). A Brewer's Sparrow was noted on the Farallon Is., SF, in the days preceding Jun. 7 (PP), while another was reported May 19 from Pigeon Pt, SM (RC). A Black-throated Sparrow sipped water from Pescadero Cr, SM, Jun. 14 (RSTh), while a Jul. 7 report




of 2 from Del Puerto Cyn, STA, would mark a 1<sup>st</sup> county record (PG). A late-passage Swamp Sparrow was found Jun. 4 at Arroyo Leon, Half Moon Bay, SM, where the region's last-departing Harris' Sparrow had also lingered, May 4-6 (both RSTh).

Fourteen Rose-breasted Grosbeaks were reported, May 9-Jul. 7, 3 along Gazos Cr, SM (mob), and a male visiting a San Geronimo, MRN, feeder for the 4<sup>th</sup>

consecutive year (BN). A female Indigo Bunting was at Half Moon Bay, SM, Jun. 2 (RSTh); singing males were at Tennessee Valley, MRN, Jul. 1 (MU) and near Bolinas Lagoon, MRN, Jul. 9-14 (LHe; LL).

In SM, a female Bobolink joined a Red-wing flock in Princeton Jun. 16, and a female Yellow-headed Blackbird flew across Pescadero Marsh Jul. 14 (RSTh). Another Yellow-headed appeared at L.

Merced, SF, May 4 (BK). Observers reported at least 31 Great-tailed Grackles across the region, including nesting pairs. Two Baltimore Orioles were on the Farallon Is., SF, in the days preceding Jun. 7 (PP); 1 was near Pescadero, SM, Jun. 29 (RSTh). The invasion of Lawrence's Goldfinches was strong through May, then petered out, with scattered reports into July. 

## Donations

Thank you for your tremendous response to our Save Gateway Valley fundraising appeal!

### Golden Eagle (\$1000 or more)

Richard Bachenheimer, Afton Crooks (Education Program), Frank & Janice Delfino plus in-kind donation (FAWR)\*, Rebecca Holder-recipient of SF Foundation's Daniel E. Koshland Civic Unity Award-designated award monies to Ohlone Education Program, Harold C. Kirker, Jacqueline Smalley & John Austin, and Dr. William F. Weeden (FAWR)\*

### Peregrine Falcon (\$500 or more)

Maynard P. & Katherine Z. Buehler Foundation Fund, James Carmichael (computer network consulting & printer), Joyce Davis (Education Program), Charlotte Nolan (computer equipment), and Jeff Williams (computer equipment)

### Least Tern (\$200 or more)

Steve & Joyce Amon, Mary Bachman & William Downing, Virginia C. Bary, Bob Battagin, Mary Betlach (admission proceeds from Ms. Betlach's garden in *Garden Conservancy's 2002 Open Days*), Robert & Barbara Brandriff, Frank & Janice Delfino, Dr. Barbara H. Gibbons, John Kenny, D.B. Luten Jr., and Mary Schaefer (FAWR)\*

### Clapper Rail (\$100 or more)

Anonymous, Merri Baldwin, Ms. Doris Beatty, Barbara B. Benner, Scott Benson & Elana Swartzman, David & Lanice Clark, Terry & Zeo Coddington, Natalie Cremer, Paul & Elizabeth Eisenhardt, Dan Eisenstein, Monica Fletcher, George Gorman, William Grasse, Kristi & Art Haigh, Totton Heffelfinger, Christopher James & Anne Whaling, Dorothy Kakimoto, Patricia Kline, Jane & Michael Larkin, Ed & Joyce Lehmann, Lorraine Mann, John S. Nelson, Charlotte Nolan, Regina Phelps, Dennis K. Rothhaar & Miriam Steinbock, Ruth & Richard Sayre, Judith M. Schuller, George & Helene Strauss, Constance & Kevin Sutton, Christopher Tarp, and Fred & Mildred Twining

### Gifts (to \$99)

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### In Memorium

In memory of Don G. Andrews  
– Dr. John P. Derdivanis  
In memory of my brother-in-law, Harold Grant  
– George Homem  
In memory of my mother, Caroline Plant  
– Carolyn Kolka  
In memory of Reba Ritchey  
– Adele E. Barker & Family; Ellen M. Chase

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Greenbelt Alliance-Dorothy Erskine Fund  
Kimball Foundation  
(Stow Lake Education Program)  
Sierra Club Foundation  
(Youth in Wilderness Program)

\*FAWR (Friends of Alameda Wildlife Refuge)

A bequest to the Golden Gate Audubon Society helps make it possible for us to continue the good work we do in helping preserve our natural world for future generations. If you are interested in setting up a bequest, we have a team of experts who will be glad to help you. Please call Arthur Feinstein at our GGAS office for more information. Our phone number is 510.843.2222. Thanks.



# Action by Mail Ballot to Amend GGAS Bylaws

by Nancy Smith

**T**he GGAS Board of Directors asks GGAS members to approve two amendments to the GGAS Bylaws, in the form printed below. Bylaw amendments are subject to member approval. Your vote to approve is needed – by **September 25, 2002** – so that GGAS will comply with the new “Chapter Policy” of the National Audubon Society.

Adopted in December 2001, the Chapter Policy governs the relationship between National Audubon and its local chapters (like GGAS). It requires each chapter to include, in substance, in its bylaws the two provisions printed below; the specific language was suggested by National Audubon and approved by the GGAS Board.

If approved by the members, the amendments would make the following changes: Article VIII would require “written” authorization; the current version does not. Article IX would in-

corporate the new Chapter Policy provisions on discontinuance of “chapter” status. (In brief, the GGAS Board could discontinue it on 60 days notice to National Audubon, but National would have lengthier procedures to follow.) For further explanation of the new Chapter Policy requirements, ask the GGAS office for a copy of National Audubon’s January 2002 letter on point.

A GGAS member in good standing may vote to approve or disapprove the proposed amendments by **completing and signing** the form of ballot printed below and returning it to the GGAS Office (2530 San Pablo Avenue, Suite G, Berkeley, CA 94702) by the ballot deadline – **September 25, 2002**.

Ballots received by that deadline will be counted in accordance with the choice specified. Under the GGAS Bylaws, 35 ballots are needed to meet the quorum requirement, and a majority vote for approval is necessary to approve the amendments.


**TWO PROPOSED AMENDMENTS**  
(restating Articles VIII and IX of the GGAS Bylaws):

## **Article VIII: Commitments**

The Society\* shall not enter into any commitments binding upon the National Audubon Society without written authorization by the National Audubon Society, nor shall the National Audubon Society, without written authorization by the Society, enter into any commitments binding upon the Society.

## **Article IX:**

### **Discontinuance of Chapter Status**

The Society may terminate its status as a Chapter of the National Audubon Society, and the National Audubon Society may terminate the status of the Society as a Chapter of the National Audubon Society, pursuant to procedures set forth in the 2001 Audubon Chapter Policy adopted by the National Audubon Society’s Board of Directors in December 2001. 

\* “Society” means the Golden Gate Audubon Society.

Please complete the ballot and return to the GGAS office by **September 25, 2002**. Thank you.

**I APPROVE THE TWO PROPOSED BYLAW AMENDMENTS:** ☐ YES ☐ NO

\_\_\_\_\_  
Printed Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

## Birding in Kenya/Tanzania

January 18, 2003

Join Golden Gate Audubon past president and Altacal Audubon member Steve Margolin for a GGAS-sponsored two-week trip to Kenya, departing on January 18, 2003, and visiting Mt. Kenya, Samburu, the Rift Valley lakes and the Maasai Mara. We will see ostriches, turacos, hornbills, rollers, waxbills, widowbirds and whydahs, just for starters. And there will be plenty of time to look at lions, hippos, zebras, rhinos, gazelles and wildebeests. The cost is \$4,495 per person, double occupancy (including airfare from San Francisco).

A one-week extension (\$2,695 per person) will take the group to Amboseli, then over the border into Tanzania to visit the Serengeti (during the zebra and wildebeest migration), Oldupai Gorge and Ngorongoro Crater.

For more information or a detailed itinerary, call Steve Margolin at 530.342.6476.



## Escape to the Galapagos Islands

February 7 to 14, 2003

Join Alan Hopkins and other Golden Gate Audubon members for a week in Ecuador and the Galapagos Islands. Our first full day in Ecuador will be spent investigating the crafts, food and people of Otavalo Country. Next, fly 600 miles off the coast to the Galapagos Islands. Upon arrival, board the M.V. Corinthian, a 48-passenger ship with all the modern amenities. The M.V. Corinthian will be our home base for visiting the Islands' many attractions. Motorized pangas (small boats) provide access to the most remote shores to discover some of the world's most intriguing wildlife. If you are not quite ready to leave South America behind, a seven-day extension is available to Cuzco and Machu Picchu.

The Galapagos trip will be approximately \$3,300, airfare included. The Cuzco and Machu Picchu extension will be approximately \$2,300.

For more information, call Alan Hopkins at 415.664.0983.



### WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

As a member of the Golden Gate Audubon Society, your benefits include 10 issues of *The Gull* yearly, a 10 percent discount at our Nature Store, access to our field trips and programs, and the opportunity to volunteer. Call the office if you have any questions.

#### GOLDEN GATE AUDUBON SOCIETY

2530 SAN PABLO AVENUE, SUITE G  
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